

NCTS Sailors, families play host to local children

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Being overseas in Japan, far away from family can be emotionally taxing on Sailors. More so on the single Sailors, especially now, during the holiday periods such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and right up to New Years Eve. But there are ways to get through this rough period. The best way that comes to mind would be putting smiles on children's faces.

During the Shinsen Children's Christmas Party, there was a sea of smiling faces. Many smiles were coming from the children, but there were just as many from the volunteers who came to support this wonderful event, many of whom are single Sailors.

The Shinsen Children's Home located in Ninomiya, Kanagawa, has been home to children between the ages of two to 18, since 1945. The home gives care, schooling and class trips for up to 70 children. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Far East has enjoyed supporting Shinsen since 1998, but the Marines were the first military service to establish a relationship with the children's home. They've provided support to the home and enjoyed this relationship for 47 years.

The NCTS-sponsored Shinsen children's party took place on Dec. 10 at Yokosuka's Chapel of Hope. After some refreshments and opening remarks by the NCTS, Far East Commanding Officer Cmdr. Tina Van Hook Swallow, and Shinsen Director Mr. Tamamori, "Magic Mike" opened the event with some tricks that amazed and entertained the children as well as the adults. Laughter and gasps of amazement were heard throughout the show.

A bounty of food was generously prepared by many NCTS Sailors and their families. The menu included ham, turkey, macaroni and cheese, stuffing and gravy. Dozens of pies, cupcakes and cookies were served for dessert. It was apparent that a lot of time and work was put into the preparation of the food. From the smiles and the full bellies, it was time and work well spent.

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in style, riding atop a hook and ladder fire engine, supplied by the Commander, Naval Forces, Japan Regional Fire Department. The children instantly surrounded Santa, as he jumped off of the truck. He brought with him candy and gifts for every child.

After Santa finished handing out the gifts, the children then presented a gift to the volunteers. A couple of Japanese



Christmas songs and hand bell performance by the children entertained all that attended.

When hearing the laughter of children, keeping from laughing can be quite impossible. During the Christmas party, there was not a person who did not have a smile on his or her face. Laughter could be heard from every corner of the hall.

Sounds of children tearing away Christmas wrapping paper was also heard along with the laughter. Even though this party was for the children, the many volunteers who were involved also received the joy of knowing they helped improve a group of children's Christmas, and just maybe brightened their spirits and gladdened their hearts.



Christian Ministries Far East

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Pastor Charles A. Hall
&
Co-Pastor Theresa A. Hall

"...where the SPIRIT of the LORD is,
there is LIBERTY."
2 Corinthians 3:17

Daiei
Route Mall
16

CFAY
Main Gate

7-11 Store
CFAY Back Gate

CMFE Bldg

Directions:
* After passing the 7-Eleven store,
on your left, CMFE is on the next
block (on the corner, facing Rt 16).
* Use side-street door after 4pm.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship Service
11:00 am & 6:30 pm

Monday Japanese Bible Study
7:00 pm

Wednesday Christian Studies
6:30 pm

Friday Prayer Service
6:30 pm

A church on the move & in the will of God!

